



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **MEXICAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO METH CONSPIRACY**

*This is the seventh defendant to plead guilty to charges arising from Operation Lucky Charm*

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A Mexican national residing in Webb City, Mo., pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo. Today's plea was announced by Todd P. Graves, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. The investigation was led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This conviction resulted from Operation Lucky Charm, a joint investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies into a large quantity of methamphetamine being distributed in southwest Missouri.

Polo Hinojosa-Garcia, 25, a citizen of Mexico residing in Webb City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge James C. England on Monday to the charge contained in a Sept. 22 federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, Hinojosa-Garcia admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine from Aug. 4 to Aug. 30, 2005, in Jasper County. Hinojosa-Garcia admitted that, on four separate occasions in August 2005, he delivered methamphetamine for the organization to an undercover law enforcement officer. More than 150 grams of methamphetamine is attributable to Hinojosa-Garcia.

Hinojosa-Garcia is the seventh defendant to plead guilty to charges arising from Operation Lucky Charm.

Carlos Mulgado, 37, Raul Alberto-Guerrero, 31, and Israel Sanchez-Mendoza, aka Geronimo Velasquez-Gomez, 29, all citizens of Mexico residing in Carthage, Mo., and Armando Figueroa-Dominguez, 31, a citizen of Mexico residing in Rogers, Ark., pleaded guilty to their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy on Feb. 2. Noel Fonseca-Garcia, 21, a citizen of Mexico residing in Pittsburgh, Kan., pleaded guilty on Jan. 26 to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Sanchez-Mendoza also pleaded guilty to possession with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 11 in Jasper County. On Aug. 11 and 12, law enforcement officers seized from Sanchez-Mendoza \$12,369, which was derived from selling methamphetamine, and which has been administratively forfeited to the government. Figueroa-Dominguez also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting another person to possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 30 in Jasper County.

Under federal statutes, each of the co-conspirators could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the U.S. Probation Office completes pre-sentence investigations.

In a separate but related case, Isaac Alberto-Guerrero, 28, a citizen of Mexico living in Carthage, pleaded guilty Feb. 2 to the charges contained in a separate federal indictment that was also returned Sept. 22 as a result of Operation Lucky Charm.

Isaac Alberto-Guerrero admitted he was an illegal alien from Mexico possessing a Hi-Point Firearms 9-mm pistol and 44 rounds of ammunition at his residence in Carthage on Aug. 17. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an alien unlawfully in the United States to possess a firearm. Under federal statutes, Isaac Alberto-Guerrero could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the U.S. Probation Office completes pre-sentence investigations.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean, Western District of Missouri. They were investigated by: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Jasper County Drug Task Force and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*